

# NORTON-RADSTOCK URBAN DISTRICT

## — COUNCIL —

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED DEC. 31st, 1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the Norton-Radstock Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my annual report on the Sanitary Conditions and Health of your District for the year ended 31st December, 1939.

#### SECTION A.

(1) Area (in acres)	3360
(2) Population (1938)	11,363
(3) Number of Inhabited Houses	3,226
(4) Ratable Value	£39,835
(5) Sum represented by Penny rate (1938—£146)	£154
(6) Chief Industries:—	
Coal Mining	
Glove Making	
Wagon Repair Works	
Agriculture	
Paper Bag Making	
Printing.	

#### Unemployment.

I have obtained figures from the Employment Exchange regarding unemployment in this District.

As the figures obtainable include certain outlying districts they should be taken comparatively. Owing to the inclement weather in January 1940, an unduly large number were temporarily stopped. The true condition should be even more favourable than is expressed below.

January 1939 ... 393 wholly and temporarily unemployed.

January 1940 ... 335 wholly and temporarily unemployed.

#### Government Evacuation Scheme.

Under the 1st Evacuation Scheme the following numbers of people were received in this District:—

On 4/9/39.		
Adults	99	
Children accompanied	149	
Children unaccompanied	120	
	269	368

On 8/12/1939.

The Highbury County School was received.

Adults	29
Children	289
	318

Reception Arrangements worked very smoothly.

During the subsequent 2 months practically all the Evacuees returned home. The School is still in residence. There was no apparent rise in notifiable Disease owing to the Evacuation. Some inconvenience was caused through Skin Disease, e.g.—Impetigo, Scabies etc, and some householders were severely tried through nocturnal incontinence.

#### Vital Statistics.

	Total	M.	F.
Live Births—			
Legitimate	190	114	76
Illegitimate	1	0	1
Still Births—			
Legitimate	6	3	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0

Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated population 16.8 (1938,—12.3).

#### Deaths.

Death Rate per 1000 population (1938—12.3)	9.3
Death Rate from Puerperal Causes	0
Rate per 1000 Births	0
Puerperal Sepsis	0

#### Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age.

All Infants per 1000 live births	52.4
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	52.4
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	0

#### Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.

Under 1 week	2
1—4	1
1—6 months	3
6—12 months	4
Total	10

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	15
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years)	0

#### The chief causes of Death (all ages) were—

Heart Disease	24
Cancer	15
Cerebral Haemorrhage & Thrombosis	10

#### Causes of Death.

	M.	F.
Heart Disease	10	14
Other Circulatory Diseases	4	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage & Thrombosis	5	5
Congenital Malformation	2	3
Cancer	6	9
Bronchitis	4	1
Asthma	2	0
Silicosis	5	0
Broncho Pneumonia	3	3
Pertussis	1	0
Influenza	0	1
Suicide	1	0
Other Violence	3	0
Nephritis	3	3
Uræmia	1	0
Liver Disease	0	1
Arthritis	0	1
Epilepsy	1	0
Herpes Zoster	1	0
Bulbar Paralysis	0	1
Paralysis Agitans	1	0
Meningitis	0	1
Desseminated Sclerosis	0	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	1
Senile Decay	1	3
Tuberculosis	9	1
Phlebitis	0	1

## SECTION B.

### General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

- (1) Public Health Officers of the Authority—
  - (a.) Sanitary Surveyor.
  - (b.) Water Surveyor.
  - (c.) Temporary Medical Officer of Health (Part-time.)
- (2) (a) Laboratory Facilities (No change).
- (b.) Ambulance Facilities, additional A.R.P. added this year.
- (c.) Nursing in the Home—No change—adequate service.
- (d.) Treatment Centres and Clinics.  
The Infant and Child Welfare Centres continue their valuable service.
- (e.) Hospitals (Public and Voluntary) No change.  
One Joint Isolation Hospital at Paulton serves the whole area for infectious disease, and carries out disinfection of bedding, etc.
- (f.) Air Raid Precautions Medical Services.
  - (a.) A First Aid Post has been established at the Radstock Road Council Schools. This is capable of giving emergency treatment to casualties and decontaminating gas infected cases.
  - (b.) First Aid and Rescue Parties.  
Efficient Mobile Parties are in being to render First Aid, and to decontaminate areas infected with persistent Gas.

## SECTION C.

### (1) Water.

The District is supplied from three sources—

- (i) The Bottlehead Springs at Downhead.
- (ii) Downside and Gurney Slade Springs.
- (iii) Chilcompton Spring.

Under Agreement the Council also supplies part of the Bathavon Rural District, Frome Rural District, Clutton and Shepton Mallet Rural Districts.

In normal seasons there is a plentiful supply of water in the district, and the whole area has a 24 hour supply.

Quarterly analyses of the water taken from the springs and from a tap at the Hollies have been made. These were all satisfactory with the exception of two analyses of the Bottlehead Springs, and one of the tap at the Hollies coinciding with one of these. These latter whilst indicating no harmful contamination, show that it can take place.

I suggest that the quarterly analyses be continued.

### Analyses of the sources of water not connected with the Council Supply.

- (1) The Shute, Radstock.
- (2) Spring Co-operative Private Supply.
- (3) Spring A. R. Swanton's Farm, Private Supply.

were also taken. The two latter analyses were fairly satisfactory. The following report was obtained concerning water from the Shute, Radstock—

"The sample shows very marked evidence of contamination and the water is unfit for drinking."

### (2) Drainage and Sewerage.

The Drainage into cesspits in the Thicket mead area has in several cases proved most unsatisfactory. A Council Sewerage System is needed.

(6) There are now no Public Swimming Baths in the area. A central Swimming Bath is an urgent necessity and should be constructed when circumstances permit.

### (7) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

There have been no cases to deal with during the year

(8) The Sanitary and water supply of the public elementary schools is satisfactory with the exception of the Sanitary arrangements of the Westfield Infants School.

An outbreak of Whooping Cough caused closing of the following schools:—

Radstock Church of England School Infants in January and February and again in October. Clandown Church of England School in January.

## SECTION D.

### Housing.

#### 1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year—

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| (1) (a) Total of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .....   | 27 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .....   | 29 |
| (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. ....        | 0  |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .....   | 0  |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. ....                                   | 7  |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..... | 11 |

#### 2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers .....

#### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| (a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.  |      |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .....                | 4    |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices                        |      |
| (a) By Owners .....  | 0    |
| (b) By Local Authorities in default of Owners .....  | 0    |
| (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—   |      |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..... | None |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—               |      |
| (a) By Owners .....  | None |
| (b) By Local Authorities in default of Owners .....  | None |
| (c) Proceedings under section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.  |      |



- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..... 4
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..... None
- (d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ..... None
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ..... None
4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV. Overcrowding:—
- (a) (1) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year ..... 2
- (2) Number of families dwelling therein ..... 2
- (3) Number of persons dwelling therein ..... 13
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ..... None
- (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ..... None
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ..... None

#### SECTION E.

##### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

##### (A) Milk Supply.

- Number of Producers on the Register 26
- Number of Distributors on the Register—
- Divided as follows:—
- (a) Distributors only ..... 16
- (b) Distributors who are also producers ..... 11
- (A producer is only included as a distributor if he definitely makes a business of selling milk by retail to individual customers).
- Number of licensees given to graded milk producers (by County Council) 5
- Number of licences for Pasteurisation by Local Authority ..... 2
- Tuberculin Tested (by County Council) 2
- The quality of the milk produced throughout the area is satisfactory. Pasteurised milk is supplied by one dairyman to the schools.
- The County Council undertakes the examination of milk for bacteria, and the samples sent regularly to the County Council during the year have been generally satisfactory.

##### (B) Meat and other Foods.

Slaughter Houses—			
Licensed	.....	.....	4
Registered	.....	.....	4
Total			8

There were no carcases condemned during the year.

##### (C) Adulteration.

No action has been taken under the Sale of Drugs Act.

##### (D) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

The Somerset County Council Laboratories at Taunton carry out any examinations necessary. Some sweets were examined, as children were suffering from Gastro Enteritis. No impurity was found.

##### (E) Nutrition.

The general standard of nutrition of children and adults is satisfactory and continues to improve. The school Milk Scheme is of immense value.

Unfortunately individual cases of malnutrition still obviously exist, due to different causes.

#### SECTION F.

##### Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year.

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases ad'ted to Hospital	Total deaths
Small Pox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	9	6	0
Diphtheria	6	6	1
Typhoid	1	1	0
Para Typhoid B	2	2	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	2	0
Pneumonia	3	0	0
Influenzal Pneumonia	1	0	0
Erysipelis	8	1	0
Pertussis	13	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0	0

There was no extensive outbreak of any notifiable disease.

The cases of Diphtheria occurring at Clandown were of a serious type. The infection was brought by a child visiting this neighbourhood from the Bath area. Directly medical aid was sought it was removed to hospital, but died the following day.

The cases of Typhoid and Paratyphoid B cases at Radstock occurred during hot weather. The case of Typhoid was an isolated one at Welton. The two Paratyphoid B cases at Radstock caused more anxiety. Investigation, which failed definitely to establish the source of infection, was of value in revealing that a source of water, the Shute, Radstock, used locally for drinking was heavily contaminated. The public have been warned to this effect. It would be safer if this water were inaccessible.

##### Vaccination

No vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health, under the Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1907. I regard with some anxiety the increasing percentage of unvaccinated people in the population.

##### Tuberculosis.

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925, now under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

##### New cases and mortality during 1939.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Res'atory.		Non Res'y.		Respiratory.		Non Res'y	
years	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	0
35	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
45	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1	2	1	4	1	1	0	1

Two deaths were also reported in which Tuberculosis occurred as a complication of Silicosis.

Male Age 54

Male Age 55.

I would like to thank those who have assisted in the preparation of this report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) A. H. BULLEID (Dr.)

NORTON-RADSTOCK  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

of the Medical Officer of Health, for  
the year ended 31st December, 1939.